

Appln. No. 09/901,528
Amdt. dated June 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The February 25, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 8, 11, 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,596,366 (Takashima et al.). Claims 1-3 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over USP Des. 427,918 (Nakai et al.) in view of JP 10-192020 (Yoshimasa). Claims 10 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Nakai et al. and Yoshimasa, and further in view of JP 62-009289 (Kazunori).

In response, claims 1-20 are cancelled and new claims 21-42 are added. New claims 21-42 clearly define over the prior art of record.

Independent claim 21 is directed to a portable image pickup apparatus including an apparatus proper (2) which includes an image pickup lens (6) and a band attaching unit (201) for connecting a band that is used to wear the apparatus proper on a portion of a user's body. The apparatus also includes an attachment (30) removably attached to the apparatus proper. The attachment includes a second lens (35) that is placed at a front of the image pickup lens (6) so as to align with the image pickup lens (6) for fulfilling a special optical effect adding function, and at least one hook (36-38) that is engaged with the apparatus proper for fixing the attachment to the apparatus proper.

Independent claim 32 is directed to an attachment (30) attachable to an image pickup apparatus proper (2) that includes an image pickup lens (6) and a band attaching unit (201) for connecting a band (3) that is used to wear the apparatus proper on a user's body. The attachment (30) includes a second lens (35) that is placed at a front of the image pickup lens (6) so as to align with the image pickup lens (6) for fulfilling a special optical effect adding function, and at least one hook (36-38) that is engaged with the apparatus proper for fixing the attachment to the apparatus proper.

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According to the present claimed invention, the apparatus proper (2) includes an image pickup lens (6) and a band attaching unit (201) for connecting a band (3) that is used to wear the apparatus proper on a user's body. The attachment (30) is removably attached to the apparatus proper. The attachment includes a second lens (35) that is placed at a front of the image pickup lens (6) so as to align with the image pickup lens (6) for fulfilling a special optical effect adding function, and at least one hook (36-38) that is engaged with the apparatus proper for fixing the attachment to the apparatus proper. Thus, when the attachment is attached to the image pickup apparatus proper, the second lens (35) fulfills the special optical effect adding function that produces a special optical effect given to the image picked up through the image pickup lens (6). The special optical effect adding functions include a telescopic function, a pantoscopic function, a microscopic function, various filtering functions (color temperature conversion, ultraviolet absorption or cut, lamp flickering, polarization, color tone correction, etc.).

USP 5,596,366 (Takashima et al.) disclose a camera having camera movement detection. The camera movement detection includes a movement detection circuit for detecting the movement

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of the camera and a blur correction circuit for correcting the blur of a picture image due to the movement of the camera on the basis of the output of the movement direction circuit. A control circuit controls the power supply on the camera on the basis of the output of the movement direction circuit and turns off the power supply of the blur correction circuit when the camera is fixed.

USP Des. 427,918 (Nakai et al.), which is assigned to the same Assignee as the present application, is directed to a watch case with an electronic still camera.

JP 10-192020 (Yoshimasa) is directed to a seal holder provided with a seal holding part for inserting and holding the seal inside in a visible state from the outside of the attachment means for attaching the seal holding part to a user's personal belongings or the user's body. The seal holding part and the attachment means include integrally molding transparent resin. The seal holding part has an almost rectangular shape and is curved in a longitudinal direction by a large curvature radius. The surface of the seal holder is smooth and provided with a curvature and a groove whose width is widened at an upper part and reduced at a lower part.

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JP 62-009289 (Kazunori), whose Applicant is the same as the Assignee of the present application, is directed to an electronic wrist watch with a camera. The patent application is directed to increasing an information processing capacity by imprinting the pickup image fed from a photo lens to a solid state image pickup element and by recording the picked up image data in a semiconductor memory.

The references do not, however, when taken either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest, inter alia:

an attachment removably attached to the apparatus proper, the attachment comprising a second lens that is placed at a front of the image pickup lens so as to align with the image pickup lens for fulfilling a special optical effect adding function, and at least one hook that is engaged with the apparatus proper for fixing the attachment to the apparatus proper (see claim 21, lines 6-11 and claim 32, lines 4-9).

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claims 21 and 32 and the applied references. Therefore, claims 21 and 32, and claims 22-31 and 33-42 which are either directly or indirectly dependent on claims 21 and 32 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

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CLAIM FEE

Submitted herewith is a check in the amount of \$36.00 for the presentation of two (2) total claims above the highest number of total claims for which payment was previously made. If any additional fees are due, or if any overpayment has been made, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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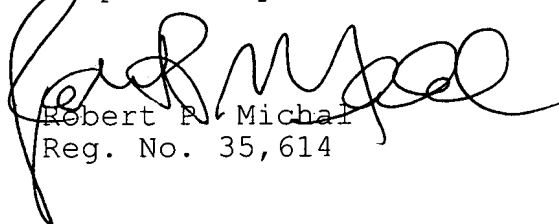
If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Petition for Extension of Time
Check in the Amount of \$36.00